

PTO/SB/30 (09-03)

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Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

Address to:
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/844,086
Filing Date	April 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	LaSalle R. Swenson et al.
Art Unit	1743
Examiner Name	Lyle Alexander
Attorney Docket Number	105414

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

ii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)

iv. ☒ Other PTO/SB/17 (Fee Transmittal for FY 2004) _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to

a. ☐ Deposit Account No. _____

i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.138 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed

c. ☒ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Maryann Maas	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,954
Signature	<i>Maryann Maas</i>	Date	October 29, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

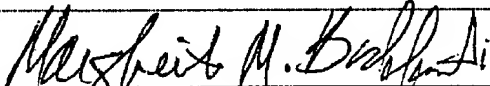
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Margherita M. Badalamenti	Date	October 29, 2003
Signature	<i>Margherita M. Badalamenti</i>		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comment on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Name (Print/Type)	Margherita M. Badalamenti	Fax # (if faxed)	(703) 872-9311
Signature		Date	October 29, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/844,086 Confirmation No. 9708
 Applicant : LaSalle R. Swenson et al.
 Filed : April 27, 2001
 TC/A.U. : 1743
 Examiner : Lyle Alexander

 Docket No. : 105414
 Customer No. : 23490

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OCT 29 2003

OFFICIAL**SUBMISSION ACCOMPANYING A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED
EXAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Mail Stop RCE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 13, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated July 10, 2003, applicants request continuing examination and reconsideration of Claims 1 – 20 in view of the following amendments and remarks. A Request for Continuing Examination accompanies this response. Also, applicants have separately submitted a three-month extension of time allowing for response up to and including November 13, 2003.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this response. Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

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